

North Carolina Sustainable Local Food Advisory Council Minutes September 20, 2012

The twelfth meeting of the Sustainable Local Food Advisory Council (Council) was held September 20, 2012, at the Martin Building at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds in Raleigh, NC. Council Vice Chair, Dr. Nancy Creamer, opened the meeting at 1:06 pm.

Members in Attendance

Dr. Alice Ammerman
Dr. Nancy Creamer
Mr. John Day
Mr. Billy Ray Hall
Ms. Debbie Hamrick
Dr. Lynn Harvey
Mr. Charlie Jackson

Rev. Mac Legerton
Mr. Roland McReynolds
Ms. Earline E. Middleton
Mr. Barry Nash
Ms. Margaret Newbold
Mr. Bob Pike
Dr. Joe Zublena

Also in Attendance

Ms. Libby Smith was in attendance for Secretary Keith Crisco
Ms. Diane Beth was in attendance for Dr. Laura Gerald
Dr. Richard Reich was in attendance for Commissioner Steve Troxler

Absent Members

Mr. Mac Baldwin
Mr. Uli Bennewitz
Ms. Jane Iseley
Mr. Phil Hudson
Ms. Savonala Horne

Mr. Brandon G. Moore
Mr. Randall Patterson
Mr. Willy Phillips
Mr. Russ Vollmer

Opening Comments

Dr. Nancy Creamer welcomed the Council as well as those in attendance. She allowed the new Council members, Mr. Bob Pike and Ms. Margaret Newbold to make introductions to the Council. Mr. Bob Pike was in the egg business for 30 years and started his own cage-free organic egg production. Ms. Margaret Newbold is the Associate Director for the Conversation Trust for North Carolina, which represents 23 local land trusts across North Carolina.

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. John Day made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2012, meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Debbie Hamrick. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Discussion of Recommendations

Dr. Alice Ammerman, Mr. John Day and Ms. Debbie Hamrick led the discussion about the Council's recommendations to be included in the 2012 Annual Report for the N.C. General

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Assembly. Recommendations to the North Carolina General Assembly, Governor, Governor and Commissioner of Agriculture and for the Council's upcoming year are include below.

Recommendations to the North Carolina General Assembly:

- 1) Appropriate funds for storage and preparation facilities in schools

Recommendations to the Governor:

- 1) Create a SNAP-Ed and EBT taskforce with stakeholders
- 2) Support the N.C. Farm to School Coalition

Recommendations to the Governor and Commissioner of Agriculture:

- 1) Improve communication of the North Carolina food system by:
 - a) Establishing an online food systems portal; and
 - b) Establishing an annual food systems public meeting or conference by enlisting the support and assistance of NCDA&CS, NCCES, CEFS, other stakeholders and members of the Council.

Recommendations for the Council's Upcoming Year:

- 1) Continue to conduct local food listening sessions
- 2) Conduct two meetings with the working title of "The Business of NC Local Foods" in Greenville and Greensboro to complement the existing Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP) session in Western N.C.
- 3) Support and advise local foods assessment and market development work
- 4) Conduct a facilitated strategic planning session
- 5) Create a USDA GAPs school and community gardens taskforce with stakeholders
- 6) Improve communication of the North Carolina food system

Ms. Debbie Hamrick reported that the Economic Development and Infrastructure subcommittee will continue to review issues with agritourism signage. Ms. Martha Glass with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is working to conduct a survey to gather information for recommendations.

Local Food Policy Councils

Dr. Nancy Creamer reported that 15 local food policy councils exist in North Carolina. Representatives from each council were invited to present about their initiatives and council structure. The Council would like to provide a portal for the local food policy councils to share their best practices and to encourage collaboration.

Ms. Emily Elders presented on the Western North Carolina Food Policy Council. This council is hosted through Western North Carolina University and started this year.

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Rev. Mac Legerton presented on Feast Down East, Wilmington Area Food Council and Robeson County Food, Farm, and Family Council. The council is focusing on building infrastructure, processing and distribution of food, the issue of the aging farmer and farm loss, and building an inclusive structure to enhance the rural economy.

Ms. Marilyn Marks and Ms. Anna Brown presented on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Food Policy Council, which was set up as a 501C3 in May 2011. This council consists of 23 members and focuses on policy and education by building relationships with key planners and developers in Charlotte. The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Food Policy Council wants a connection to the Council.

Ms. Nancy Bryant presented on the Tri-County Farm and Food Council, which consists of Anson, Stanly and Montgomery counties. This council was formally started on October 23, 2012 and was started in November 2010. The Tri-County Farm and Food Council's initiatives include creating an incubator farm and building a locally based, economically resilient food system for their region. This council would benefit from a matrix or map of all local food groups and agencies who are working on farm and food system issues to eliminate duplication.

Ms. Brenda Sutton presented on the Rockingham County Local Food Coalition, which covers seven counties. This council's mission is to preserve farms and focus on sustainability and economic development. The Rockingham Community Kitchen opened on July 1, 2012 to support entrepreneurship and to empower sustainable programs. The council also works with community gardens and elementary schools in Rockingham County.

Ms. Sherée Thaxton Vodicka presented on Advocates for Health in Action. This council focuses on local policy and community garden projects in Wake County and focuses on education, communication and advocating for local foods. This council would benefit from collaborating with others about the direction for their organization and how to develop an effective structure for their council.

Mr. Aaron Newton presented on the Cabarrus County Food Policy Council. This council was established in 2010 and consists of a diverse group of 23 members, each serving for three years. The council's main initiative consists of a local food assessment in conjunction with the Center for Environmental Farming Systems (CEFS).

Ms. Tessa Thraves presented on the Food Youth Initiative: Youth Council, which partners with CEFS, 4-H, YES!, and Inter-Faith Food Shuttle and targets students ages 16-24. This council engages and trains youth to become leaders regarding local foods.

Mr. Jeff Rieves presented on Carolina Home Grown in Union County, which works with the Master Gardeners program to conduct plant sales, fundraisers and manage community gardens. The organization's goals include creating a new approach involving food and culture and to increase home food production.

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Ms. Marsha Howe presented on All American Home Grown in Fayetteville. She discussed how the organization is working to connect farmers and to create a permanent farmers market. The organization is also working with veterans.

Subcommittee Updates

Dr. Alice Ammerman and Ms. Diane Beth reported on the Health, Wellness, Hunger and Food Access subcommittee's last meeting. Ms. Diane Beth discussed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's national fruit and vegetable indicator report, which includes state and local food policy councils useful at the community level. She also discussed the EBT webinar, which was well attended by those involved with farmers markets. Dr. Alice Ammerman discussed Dr. Ben Chapman's food safety guidance document, which is available at <http://chapmanfoodsafety.files.wordpress.com/2011/08/foodsafety-gardens.pdf>.

Mr. John Day did not have a report for the Land, People and Natural Resources subcommittee.

Ms. Debbie Hamrick reported on the Economic Development and Infrastructure subcommittee's listening sessions and plans for two "Business of North Carolina Local Foods" meetings.

Other Comments

Ms. Vickie Lee Parker and Sarah Grimme discussed the Support Center's Healthy Food Forum, which works with small business and farmers in lending. Dr. Alice Ammerman participated on the panel and they are looking for sponsors at their statewide forum about lending opportunities.

Mr. Roland McReynolds discussed CFSA's regulatory guide written for beginning and established farmers to help them understand the many federal and state laws and regulations that govern the production and sale of local foods. Specific sections provide outline requirements for farm-scale production and sale of meat, poultry, eggs, dairy, raw fruits & vegetables, honey, and low-risk manufactured foods (e.g., pickles and jams). Link is available at <http://www.carolinafarmstewards.org/tag/nc-regulatory-guide/>.

Ms. Earline Middleton noted that September is hunger action month and encouraged everyone to wear orange. The Food Bank also had a successful summer, serving 127,000,000 meals to 33,000 children.

Closing Comments

Dr. Nancy Creamer discussed the December retreat and facilitated strategic planning session, which will be important in determining the Council's future structure. The next Council meetings will be January 17, April 18, July 18, and September 19, 2013. She also wished Kristen Baughman best of luck in her new job at the NCDA&CS and thanked her for her service to the Council. She stated that a letter of inquiry was submitted to Golden LEAF to staff the Council.

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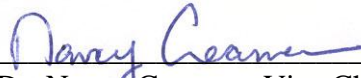
Ms. Debbie Hamrick made a motion to close the meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Roland McReynolds and passed unanimously. The Council meeting adjourned at 3:37 pm.

Prepared by:
Kristen Baughman
NCDA&CS

Adopted by the Council this 17th day
of January, 2013

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Steven W. Troxler", written over a horizontal line.

Commissioner Steven W. Troxler, Chair
Sustainable Local Food Advisory Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Nancy Creamer", written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Nancy Creamer, Vice Chair
Sustainable Local Food Advisory Council